



SEDBERGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sixty-first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The Report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1961, and in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by references to information given in previous Reports.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. PHYSICAL FEATURES | } | See previous Reports. |
| 2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT | | |

In addition to rearing cattle and sheep in this rural district, the wholesale production of milk for collection by motors is steadily increasing and butter-making proportionately decreasing.

As for some years past, the district has been comparatively free from Infectious Disease, both notifiable and non-notifiable.

Vital statistics show birth-rate = 9·5. Death-rate = 18·8.

GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	52,674
Population (1921 census)	...	...	...	...	3,897
Population (1931 census)	...	...	...	...	4,050
Population (1929 estimate)	...	...	...	...	3,758
Inhabited Houses (1940 estimated)	...	...	...	...	1,110
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£15,954
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£62

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the district were 36.

Legitimate	...	...	17 Males and 18 Females.
Illegitimate	...	...	0 Male and 1 Female.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 3,758 is equivalent to 9·5 per 1,000, compared with 10·2, 9·7 and 13·1 in the previous three years, with 12·4 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 14·6 for England and Wales.

(b) DEATHS.

The Deaths after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the district and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the district numbered 41 males and 30 females, a total of 71.

The death-rate is thus 18·8, compared with 13·0, 12·3 and 11·8 in the previous three years, with 14·3 for the Craven Combined District, and 14·3 for England and Wales.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Deaths as corrected by the Registrar-General were 1 Male and 1 Female, all legitimate.

The Infant Mortality was thus 55 per 1,000 children born, compared with 0, 4 and 4 in the previous three years, with 51 for the Craven Districts, and with 55 for England and Wales.

(d) STILL BIRTHS.

The Still Births registered were 5.

The percentage of Still Births to Total Births (alive and still-born), 12·1, compared with 3·8 in Craven Urban and 4·9 in Craven Rural.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes, 0.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births, nil ; compared with 3·9 for the Craven District and 2·1 for England and Wales.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely, Smallpox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) were responsible for 1 death, compared with a total of 4 in the previous ten years.

Zymotic Death-rate : ·26, compared with ·2, ·0 and ·2 in the previous three years, and with ·05 in the Craven Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Sedbergh Urban District, 1940.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	41	30
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...			...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1	—
12 General paralysis of insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	5	4
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	6	3
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	14	9
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	1
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	1
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	4
29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	1	—
32 Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
33 Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—
34 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	1	—
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4	2
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):						
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

To the total death-rate of 18·8

Infectious Disease contributed	·26
Tuberculosis	·79
Cancer	2·39
Heart Disease	6·91
Respiratory Diseases	2·12
Apoplexy	2·39
Premature Birth, &c.	·26
Other Diseases	3·6

The general death rate is high, Infant Mortality average, and Maternal Mortality nil.

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WM. SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: WILLAN BATTY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

3. PROFESSIONAL NURSING, MIDWIVES, etc.

} See previous Reports.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER SUPPLIES.

Your Inspector supplies the following summaries:

“**SEDBERGH WATER SUPPLY.**—There were no extensions during the year. The leakage in the storage reservoir reported in December, 1939, continued amid severe weather conditions in January and the level of storage was reduced to 6' 4½", necessitating turning off the supply in the nights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. from January 9th to February 15th. The leakage ceased as mysteriously as it commenced. Work was put in hand to trace it, but no definite cause was found; it is assumed that a crack developed in the floor of the reservoir, which afterwards was filled by the suction of the water drawing material into it. Since then it seems to have been sound. The reservoir remained full (17 feet) from February 23rd to May 11th, when an exceptionally dry spring reduced the inflow rapidly and the level of water gradually fell until it reached 5' 6" on July 9th; for a considerable period the inflow was only 37,000 gallons per day. From June 21st to July 19th it was necessary to restrict consumption to six hours per day (7 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.). The storage was rapidly restored at the end of July and no further shortage was experienced. Throughout this period of restriction the influx of evacuees and soldiers accentuated the difficulty of the situation.

Expert advice upon the supply was taken and Messrs. F. J. Rodwell & Son, of Leeds, prepared a scheme for an extension of the intake by impounding waters from Hobdale Beck, involving the laying of about 2½ miles of 4" pipe to give an additional 100,000 gallons per day when required. The gauging of this supply in the exceptionally dry weather showed a minimum flow of 85,000 gallons per day. It was considered that this addition to the existing supply would provide sufficient water daily to allow a direct supply to the mains by by-passing the storage reservoir, which could then be thoroughly repaired and reconditioned. Mr. H. W. Coales, an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Health, visited Sedbergh on October 1st and investigated the supply. The contract was then let to Mr. F. Pilkington, of Harrogate, in the hope of expediting the work, but difficulty arose in obtaining the Ministry's sanction, chiefly on account of the necessary delay in securing a title to the land on the common, for the impounding dam, and at the end of the year no progress had been made.

A special test of the mains and services was undertaken in the Spring by Mr. Gott, of Leeds, who gave a full report showing that the mains were generally sound, and leakage was largely caused by defective service pipes and taps. Steps were taken to remedy these. It was considered that the high consumption of water per head in the supply area was due not so much to defective pipes as to the considerable proportion of the population (e.g., Sedbergh School) who are normally large water users, and to the large quantity of water used by a laundry which does work for many customers outside the supply area and district.

No extension of mains was made during the year, but considerable expense was incurred in maintaining a supply during the January frost and snow to the Birks area, where a branch main had burst and the frozen condition of the ground caused difficulty and delay in locating the burst and its repair. This frost was abnormally severe and on two nights 35° of frost were registered, causing many frozen services and subsequent bursts.

During April, samples of the water were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and he reported that it was a Class 1 water. Under the Ministry's order that all water supplies for over 1,000 population should be chlorinated, the necessary apparatus was ordered from Messrs. Wallace & Tierman, and arrangements have been made for its installation.

DENT.—The Dent and Leagate supplies were well maintained throughout the year. Mr. W. Hodgson, senr., is still in control of the works during the absence of the caretaker on military service. Analysis of samples taken in April showed the water to be Class 1.

(2) SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

SEDBERGH.—No extensions of sewer have been made during the year. The disposal system has gradually improved, but is still not so satisfactory as one would desire.

DENT.—There have been no extensions of sewer during the year, and the disposal works have proved adequate for treatment of the sewage. A subsidence of ground on the main sewer in a field in January caused trouble, and a short length was re-laid on a bed of reinforced concrete.

MILLTHROP.—No progress has been made here on the scheme submitted by Messrs. Rodwell and Son, and for the present the proposal is deferred because certain proposed developments to the east of Millthorp have now been abandoned.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, &c.

(a) EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Water carriage is the sole means of disposal in the town portion of the district. In Sedbergh 16 W.C.'s were provided for Millthrop Mill, while in Dent 1 W.C. was provided for new property. In the rest of the district where sewers are not available the block or privy midden is still in use, as shown in the following table :

Number and character of Closets in the district at end of 1940 :—

Privies with fixed receptacles	...	...	473
Privies with movable receptacles	...	...	76
Fresh Water Closets (cistern)	...	...	906
Waste Water Closets	...	...	0

(b) SCAVENGING.

SEDBERGH.—In June the contract for scavenging was re-let to Mr. W. Woof at £112 per annum, the Council undertaking to provide assistance on one day a week. The work has been well done.

DENT.—The contractor, Mr. T. Heigh, carried out his duties during the year satisfactorily and the contract was renewed on the same terms for 1941."

4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK COMPLETED DURING 1939.

	Sedbergh.	Dent.	Garsdale.	Total.
Number of Complaints received	2	—	—	2
New Houses built during year (Private)	—	1	—	1
" " " (Council)	—	—	—	—
Number of Houses, etc., inspected... ..	283	137	41	461
House Drains trapped, cleansed, etc.	6	1	—	7
Sink Waste trapped	—	1	—	1
Dampness remedied	—	—	—	—
Privies and W.C.'s repaired, cleansed, etc.	3	2	2	7
Water Closets provided	16	1	—	17
Ashbins provided	6	2	—	8
Water supply provided	1	1	—	2
New Privies provided	—	—	—	—
New Pail Closets	—	—	—	—
Number of Ashpits ordered to be emptied	4	3	4	11
Removal of Offensive Accumulation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	9	2	1	12
Slaughterhouses inspected	1	—	—	1
Bakehouses inspected	4	1	—	5
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	79	84	25	188
Factories and Workshops inspected	49	12	4	65
Plans of New Buildings approved	2	2	1	5
Statutory Notices issued	—	—	—	—
Informal Notices given	25	14	9	48

5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

- (a) COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.—None in District.
- (b) THE BAKEHOUSES were all inspected and found satisfactory.
- (c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None in district.
- (d) SCHOOLS.—7 Elementary, 1 Public and 1 Private Kindergarten.

The Preparatory School at Settlebeck, Sedbergh, was acquired during 1939 by the West Riding Education Authority for development as Central and Infant Schools, but owing to the war the scheme is in abeyance. Later the Military Authorities leased the School, along with the Baliol School, as quarters for troops.

(e) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 29 workshops and 36 factories in the district. All have been visited (95 inspections) and their conditions noted, without any cause for complaint as regards insanitation, overcrowding, etc. There are no outworkers in the District.

Most of the industries are one-man businesses, or carried on by a family, and very few workmen are engaged. This fact has a distinct bearing on the administration of the Shops Act.

A Register, Record Book and Fire Escape Book are duly kept, in which details are entered as to sanitation, air-space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleanliness, etc.

(f) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—None except Sedbergh School (private).

(g) ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.—No action necessary.

(h) CAMPING SITES.—There are no camping sites in the district licensed under Sec. 259 P.H. Act, 1936. A few farmers allow temporary camps for a night or two at various places.

Altogether, some five sites were used for camping during 1940 for short periods—the estimated maximum number of campers during the year being 60.

W. BATTY, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

D.—HOUSING.

Only two new houses were erected during 1940 and both by private enterprise ; in fact, beyond general supervision and the necessary re-conditioning of defects there is little to report under this heading. On the other hand, no overcrowding was observed during the year.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Your Inspector reports :—

“Inspection of the cowsheds has continued in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Surgeon, and conditions generally were found to be fairly satisfactory. There is an increasing tendency to export whole milk and a consequent decline in butter-making. There are now two producers in the district who hold “Tuberculin-tested” licences. The district is remarkably free from tuberculous cattle and it would seem desirable that more producers should establish tested herds as strongly urged by the Ministry’s Inspector.

Number of Cowkeepers registered	...	...	...	...	270
„ Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	295
„ Cows (approximately)	...	...	...	...	2,500
„ Inspections made	...	...	...	...	232
„ Wholesale Traders registered	...	...	...	...	252
„ Retail Traders registered	...	...	...	...	18

(b) MEAT SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Owing to Government control of meat production, all slaughter-houses in the district except one in Sedbergh were unused. Here regular inspection of carcasses was undertaken. During the year 1,283 lbs. of beef was condemned as tuberculous ; 623 lbs. of cows' liver on account of intestinal parasites, and 81 lbs. of beef for other reasons ; 56lbs. of sheep and lamb livers were condemned for parasitic infection ; 91 lbs. of mutton and lamb on account of emaciation ; 15 lbs. of pork were condemned for tuberculosis.

(c) ADULTERATION.

Sampling of milk and action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act undertaken by the W.R.C.C. are reported upon by the County Medical Officer.

F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The immunity from non-notifiable disease enjoyed by the District for many years was broken by an epidemic of Measles invading schools and military billets.

(b) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The notifications, definite or suspected, were 13 Scarlet Fever, 1 Pneumonia, 1 Erysipelas, 2 Poliomyelitis, 1 Cerebro Spinal Fever. 13 Scarlet Fever cases occurring in private houses were removed to the Council Hospital. A number of cases in Sedbergh School were isolated in the School sanatorium ; 8 cases of Measles among the troops were treated in the Council Hospital.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified or otherwise brought to the notice of the Sanitary Authority :

Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	3
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	0

Deaths : Non-Pulmonary, 2 males, 1 female. Tuberculosis Death-rate, .79, compared with .70 for Craven Combined Districts.

Number on Register at end of year : Pulmonary ... 2 males, 7 females.
Non-Pulmonary ... 3 males, 0 females.

No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, relating to Tuberculous Employees in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to Hospital.

(d) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (P.H. Act, 1936, Section 176).

Apart from provision by the County Council of hospital treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, welfare centres, school clinics and the systematic examination of school-children, no action has been taken by the Council.

(e) CANCER—DEATHS.

Sites involved : Mouth, gullet, uterus ...	1 male
Stomach and duodenum ...	1 female
Breast ...	—
Other sites ...	4 males, 3 females.

Death-rate from malignant disease : 2.39 ; Craven, 1.91.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Bacteriological specimens sent to County Laboratory for examination : Sputum and urine for Tubercle Bacilli 3, throat swabs for Diphtheria 13, Miscellaneous 11 ; total, 27.

EVACUATION SCHEME.

During 1940 there were few changes except in personnel, extra evacuees coming in from bombed areas, others returning home because they did not take kindly to country life. At the end of the year there were billeted in Sedburgh and Cowgill 48 children of school age, 22 under school age, 28 mothers and 1 teacher. Of these 31 children and 18 mothers belonged to London.

I would here beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Batty, your Sanitary Inspector, for much valuable assistance in carrying on the sanitary administration of the district amid great difficulties and pressure of work, especially seeing that his assistant, Mr. Jefford, left on 31st August to take up another appointment elsewhere.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. SCATTERY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Keighley,

August, 1941.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC., IN 1940.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live	14·6	16·0	15·7	12·4
Still	0·55	0·64	0·55	0·55
DEATHS :				
All Causes	14·3	15·8	12·8	14·3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01
Scarlet Fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01
Diphtheria	0·06	0·01	0·05	0·00
Influenza	0·32	0·29	0·30	0·08
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	1·63	1·53	1·57	1·48
Diphtheria	1·16	1·29	1·21	0·28
Enteric Fever	0·07	0·06	0·10	0·08
Erysipelas	0·33	0·36	0·30	0·30
Pneumonia	1·20	1·37	1·00	0·28
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	55	61	54	51
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	4·6	5·9	4·4	0·01
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·52	} Not available		1·3
Others	1·64			2·6
Total	2·16			3·9
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever ... }	11·9	13·9	9·7	3·9
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }				

Sedbergh
Rural District Council.

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KEIGHLEY, August, 1941.